

corner in the midst of hides, stinking Tollo dogs, &c., where we spread our bedding for the night's rest : sleep we guarded against, as our company did not seem any of the safest. No sooner indeed was the light put out, than we heard one of them examining our luggage ; but when we made a noise to indicate that we were not asleep, he desisted.

Next evening we arrived again at the *Estancia* of Mr. Methuen, where we rested for a day ; then, with my peon and three horses, I set out for Buenos Ayres, where we arrived after a five days' dull ride, and nearly a month's journey in search of that which was not to be found.

We have been favoured by Mr. Bell with the sight of a letter just received by him from Mr. Cuming at Manilla, and which brings down our intelligence of him to so late a date as Nov. 1, 1837, after having been absent ten months among the southern islands of the Philippines, where he has made a very large collection of Crustacea, which he has forwarded to the Zoological Society and to Mr. Bell ; also five cases of animals for Mr. Owen, including a great number of fish, snakes, lizards, frogs, dragons, and bats. He states also that he has collected 1809 species of shells, amongst which are 300 from the woods, many of them magnificent. It was his intention to leave Manilla in a month for the southern provinces of Luzon and the adjacent islands, for a period of at least nine months.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Molluscous Animals, including Shell-fish ; containing an Exposition of their Structure, Systematical Arrangement, Physical Distribution, and Dietetical Uses, with a Reference to the Extinct Races. Forming the article "Mollusca," in the 7th edition of the Encyclopædia Britannica. By John Fleming, D.D., F.R.S.E., &c. Edin. 1837. 12mo.

During our cursory perusal of this volume we had forcibly brought to recollection some lines of Chaucer, which the lapse of three centuries or so has not rendered the less unfitting.

“ For out of the old feldis, as men saieth,
Comith all this newe corne fro yere to yere,
And out of oldè bokis, in gode faieth,
Comith all this newe science that men lere.”

And yet the lines are not very applicable to the purpose either, for

the books out of which this little *new* one comith are of too recent a date to be pronounced *old*. The volume consists of four chapters, of which the first is a republication of that portion of the author's "Philosophy of Zoology," which treated of molluscous animals; which again was a reprint from an article in Brewster's Edinburgh Encyclopædia. Chapter II. is not in the "Philosophy," with the exception of five or six pages; but the matter in its other pages is so familiar to us, that we feel pretty sure of having before read them in some other book: they are probably from the article "Conchology" in Brewster's Encyclopædia, or from the Supplement to the Encyclopædia Britannica, or from both. Chapter III. is also from the fruitful "Philosophy," with one or two trifling interpolations, amendments, and omissions: and Chapter IV. is reprinted from the Supplement to the Encyclopædia Britannica, whether *verbatim* or not we cannot pronounce decidedly, but nearly so. Surely the material must be good that allows so frequent a transfusion! It may be so, and the article may, for all that we know, come up to that standard of excellence by which encyclopædist measure their contributions; but this we are certain of, that as a separate "Treatise" on molluscous animals it is very defective in every point of view. The beginner will read the book with advantage, because the manner in which the subject is treated is a good one,—anatomy and physiology going hand in hand with the systematist and œconomist;—but the further advanced conchologist will find it no more than a convenient and cheap collection of articles he has previously studied.

The Cabinet Cyclopædia; conducted by the Rev. D. Lardner. Natural History. Animals in Menageries. By William Swainson, Esq., F.R.S., L.S. 8vo. London, 1838.

The subject to which this volume is devoted, our author tells us, "is one in which little novelty can be expected;" and we must confess that in all respects it scarcely comes up to the usual standard of the volumes in Dr. Lardner's Cyclopædia. The two first parts are a compilation neatly enough executed, but still a compilation in almost every line, without the least pretence to novelty; and it is a pity that here and there an original remark should be introduced on the unscientific character of the works of Fred. Cuvier, or upon the "careless and ungrammatical" style of that of the venerable Latham, especially as such ample use is made of both the works. These do not contribute to the value of Mr. Swainson's volume, neither do they add to the pleasure of most of its readers. The ornithology of the latter, though not possessing the lucid arrangement which may